to be recovered by the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) from the defaulting employers;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to recover this money of workers from defaulting employers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Employees' Provident Fund Organization has been lauanching prosecution cases under Section 14A and 14AA of the EPF and MP Act against defaulting employers/ establishments for non-remittance of the contribution as well as non-furnishing of returns. The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation has also been filing cases under Section 406/409 IPC through the Police authorities which led to criminal cases against the employers.

(d) Does not arise in view of (b) and (c) above.

Visit of leader of opposition of Pakistan Assembly

*276. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the leader of opposition of Pakistan National Assembly visited India, recently; and

(b) if so, the details of his visit and his meeting with PM?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) The leader of

one of the parties in the opposition in Pakistan National Assembly, Maulana Fazlur Rehman, led a four member delegation of Jamait Ulema-e-Islam (F) from July 15 to July 24, 2003. During his visit to India, he visited Amritsar, Sirhind, Deoband and Saharanpur and interacted with a cross section of media, analysts and political and religious leaders. He met Prime Minister on July 20, 2003. The meeting was in the nature of a courtesy call. During the meeting, the importance of greater people to people contacts between the two countries was *inter alia* emphasized.

Laying of underground cables

*277. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that underground cables for telephones are not being laid at prescribed depth, particularly in rural areas;

(b) whether Government are aware that cables under Bihar Sharif Division, particularly from Nalanda to Daman Khandha are laid at a depth of only one feet due to which telephones remain non functional for months together; if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to order an independent enquiry into the matter; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION-TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) (a) The cables are generally laid at the prescribed depth except at locations like rocky soil, culverts etc., where it is often not possible to do so and relaxation in depth is given by the empowered officers. Additional protection is provided at such places by use of split RCC pipes, Gl pipes or by concreting. However, whenever it comes to notice that